

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 20295 241424Z

ACTION EB-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 TRSE-00 L-01 SS-14 NSC-05
SP-02 SMS-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01
/042 W

-----095661 241501Z /64

P 241421Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5967

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 20295

LIMDIS

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EFIN, GW, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET GOLD SALES

REF: MOSCOW 20072

1. FRG EMBASSY ECON/COMMERCIAL MINISTER-COUNSELOR (VON STUELPNAGEL) CALLED TODAY TO CONFESS THAT HIS REPORT OF PRICE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN GERMAN PURCHASE PRICE OF SOVIET GOLD AND WORLD PRICE WAS BASED ON AN ERRONEOUS CALCULATION BY A MEMBER OF HIS STAFF. ALTHOUGH STUELPNAGEL DID NOT SAY SO, THIS ERROR PRESUMABLY CAME TO LIGHT IN STUELPNAGEL'S AUGUST 22 MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE BANK (VTB), IVANOV, SINCE THE LATTER HAD BEEN ALARMED ABOUT THE NEWS AND HAD TAKEN UNPRECEDENTED STEP OF INVITING STUELPNAGEL TO CALL ON HIM.

2. IVANOV-STUELPNAGEL MEETING ALSO PRODUCED DEBATE AS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 20295 241424Z

TO WHETHER USSR EXPORTS GOLD TO FRG, WITH IVANOV INSISTING THAT IT DOES NOT. STUELPNAGEL STATED THAT ALTHOUGH SALES HAD BEEN MADE THROUGH A THIRD COUNTRY (HE MENTIONED SWITZERLAND), THEY HAD BEEN BILLED TO FRG. HE FURTHER MAINTAINED THAT FRG HAD NEVER EXPERIENCED SUCH AN INFLUX OF GOLD FROM THE USSR IN THE PAST.

3. ONE ADDITIONAL NOTE OF INFORMATION WAS THAT STUELPNAGEL WAS INFORMED BY HIS BRITISH AND FRENCH COUNTERPARTS THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO PURCHASES OF SOVIET GOLD THIS YEAR BY EITHER UK OR FRANCE.

4. IN LIGHT OF CORRECTED INFORMATION, WE BELIEVE THAT GERMAN INTEREST IN A PUTATIVE PRICE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN DIRECT SALE TO U.S., AND ZURICH MARKET PRICES HAS NOW DISAPPEARED.

5. WE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT MOMENT OF TRUTH MUST HAVE BEEN AN UNCOMFORTABLE ONE FOR STUELPNAGEL AND AN INAUSPICIOUS ONE FOR HIS UNNAMED STATISTICIAN. TOON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOLD, SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW20295
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780346-1021
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780828/aaaaaxiu.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c90ba45c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 20072
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1634319
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET GOLD SALES
TAGS: EFIN, GE, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c90ba45c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014